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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/926,811	07/01/2002	Yoshihiko Funakoshi	217206US3PCT	4840
22850 7590 03/16/2007 OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			EXAMINER VANORE, DAVID A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2881	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		03/16/2007	ELECTRONIC	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Notice of this Office communication was sent electronically on the above-indicated "Notification Date" and has a shortened statutory period for reply of 3 MONTHS from 03/16/2007.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/926,811

Applicant(s)

FUNAKOSHI ET AL.

Examiner

David A. Vanore

Art Unit

2881

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 November 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 59-61, 63-65, 67, 71-75, 77-82, 106, 109-111, 114 and 116 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 59-61, 63-65, 67, 71-75, 77-82, 106, 109-111, 114 and 116 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 December 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 59-61, 63-65, 67, 71-75, 77-82, 106, 109-111, 114, and 116 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anspach et al. (USPN 4,579,274) with Wells et al. (USPN 5,848,111) and Homer (USPN 4,836,934) cited as evidence.

2. Regarding claims 59-61, 67, 74-75, 79-80, 84, 106, 110-111, and 116, Anspach et al. teaches a radiation container having an integrally formed body (Fig. 3 Item 3) where the thickness of the steel container of Anspach et al. is sufficient to maintain a dosage of gamma radiation at or below 40 where the shape of a section of the container is polygonal (Fig. 3). Regarding claim 80 specifically, air contains radioactive isotopes. The container of Anspach et al. would provide sufficient shielding such that the dosage requirement of claim 80 would be satisfied due to the low activity of the isotopes, and their concentrations, in air. Further, concerning claim 61, the rectangular side walls of the Anspach et al. reference have a "step" illustrated in Fig. The claims also contain limitations reciting the method of forming. Limitations reciting the method of forming of the container or the device used to form the container are part of the process utilized to realize the final product. As such the claims have been treated as product by process claims.

3. Anspach et al. fails to show that the inner circumference of a section of the container is an octagonal polygon.
4. A circular shaped container and an octagonal shaped container are both convenient shapes to receptively accommodate materials to be contained. Note USPN 4,836,934 Fig. 4c and USPN 5,848,111 Fig. 2.
5. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the shape of a section of the container octagonal because such a modification comprises a change in the shape of a container with no associated new or unexpected result. Such a modification is obvious because it has been held that changing the shape of that which is disclosed in the prior art is an obvious modification where no new or unexpected result is achieved.
6. Regarding claims 63, 71, 109, and 114, the inner diameter of the container body is 1 meter, indicating that the outer diameter is not less than 1 meter, but, as indicated in Fig. 3, not more than three meters. Further, given the illustrated diameter of the container, the thickness is illustrated as being about a less than a third, but more than one tenth of the diameter of the container, and therefore falls in the range required in the claim.
7. Regarding claim 65, 73, 78, and 82, the container includes an integral flange (Fig. 3 Item 5).
8. Claims 64, 72, 77, 81, and 85 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anspach et al. (USPN 4,579,274) in view of Kirchner et al. (USPN 5,567,952).

9. Anspach et al. teaches all the required limitations of claims 64, 72, 77, 81, and 85 except for a spot facing section.

10. Kirchner et al. teaches a radioactive container having a spot facing section filled with neutron absorbing material (Item 23 in Fig. 3B).

11. Kirchner et al. modifies the prior art of Anspach et al. to provide a container having a spot facing section.

12. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a spot facing section in a radioactive container to provide space for further neutron absorbing material as utilized in Kirchner et al. to provide additional shielding material, thereby maintaining a safe environment external the container.

Response to Arguments

13. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 60 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David A. Vanoré whose telephone number is (571) 272-2483. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Kim can be reached on (571) 272-2293. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2881

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



David A Vanore
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2881

dav